

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /075 W
-----211829Z 040420 /50

R 210836Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 372
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1701

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SW, PL, CZ
SUBJECT: SWEDISH TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES WITH POLAND AND
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF INCIDENTS, THREE SWEDISH CITIZENS, TWO OF THEM FORMER POLISH CITIZENS AND JEWISH, WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO POLAND ON APRIL 3 AND SENT BACK TO SWEDEN BY POLISH AUTHORITIES AT GOP EXPENSE. THEY WERE GIVEN NO EXPLANATION WHY THEY WERE CONSIDERED UNDESIRABLE VISITORS, AND UPON THEIR RETURN TO SWEDEN PROTESTED TO THE POLISH EMBASSY AND THE SWEDISH MFA THAT SWEDISH CITIZENS ARE NOT TREATED IN POLAND AS POLISH CITIZENS ARE TREATED IN SWEDEN. THE MFA RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD TRANSMIT SUCH CASES TO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN WARSAW AND TAKE THEM UP "AT EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION."

2. THE TRAVELLERS AND THE PRESS CHARGE THAT POLAND
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HABITUALLY DISCRIMINATES AGAINST FORMER POLISH CITIZENS WHO ARE OF JEWISH EXTRACTION. SOME 30 SWEDISH CITIZENS OF POLISH BIRTH, ALMOST ALL OF THEM JEWISH, HAVE BEEN REJECTED AT THE POLISH FRONTIER IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, NOTWITHSTANDING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN POLAND AND SWEDEN WHICH SINCE 1974 PROVIDES FOR FREE TRAVEL WITHOUT VISAS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, BOTH COUNTRIES

RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT "UNDESIRABLE PERSONS." IN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM, ONE PAPER COMMENTED THAT "THE COMBINATION OF EX-POLISH CITIZEN AND JEW IS CONSIDERED TO BE REASON ENOUGH TO REFUSE ENTRY TO POLAND."

3. IN ANOTHER TRAVEL CASE INVOLVING CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TWO SWEDISH JOURNALISTS FOR THE PAPER EXPRESSEN WERE REFUSED VISAS IN EARLY APRIL WHEN THEY APPLIED TO ACCOMPANY A SWEDISH HOCKEY TEAM TO PRAGUE. THE REFUSAL WAS NOT EXPLAINED, BUT EXPRESSEN'S CHIEF EDITOR SPECULATED THAT THE REFUSAL WAS DUE TO THE PAPER'S EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF CHARTER 77 AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES INVOLVING CZECHS. THE SWEDISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED CZECH AUTHORITIES THAT IF THE VISAS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING THE ENTIRE TRIP WOULD BE CANCELLED. A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN 1971 RESULTED IN SUCH A CANCELLATION, BUT THIS TIME, ACCORDING TO THE MFA, THE CZECHS HAVE APPARENTLY CHANGED THEIR MINDS AND RECENTLY APPROVED THE VISAS. END UNCLASSIFIED

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: SWEDISH MFA SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE PROBLEM WITH POLAND IS A SENSITIVE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN UP SEVERAL TIMES WITH LITTLE PROGRESS. THE MFA HAS THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE POLICY OF REFUSAL IS BASED ON ANTI-SEMITISM, AND THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT SUCH DECISIONS APPEAR TO BE TAKEN AT A HIGH ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL, BY PEOPLE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN PUSHING JEWS OUT OF POLAND AROUND 1968. THE POLES INSIST THAT THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE REASONS FOR REFUSALS AND RESPOND THAT EACH DECISION INVOLVES SPECIFIC REASONS PERTAINING TO EACH PERSON. THE POLES REJECT ANY IMPLICATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THEIR POLICY.

5. PROBLEM IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE, THE OFFICIAL EXPLAINED, BECAUSE SWEDEN ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT "UNDESIRABLE" POLISH VISITORS AND HAS DONE SO, THOUGH NO MORE THAN 3 TIMES AS COMPARED TO OVER 30 REJECTIONS BY POLAND. ON EACH OCCASION OF REJECTION BY THE GOS, THE POLES HAVE INQUIRED, APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO DRAW PARALLELS, AND EACH TIME THE MFA HAS RESPONDED WITH SPECIFIC REASONS, ON CONTRAST TO THE POLISH REFUSAL TO DO SO. THE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED DURING HIGH-LEVEL SWEDISH-POLISH CONTACTS, AS YET UNANNOUNCED, SOME TIME THIS SUMMER. END CONFIDENTIAL.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0148
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2732446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES WITH POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TAGS: PFOR, SW, PL, CZ, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd3b30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009